

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1-10 are rejected. Claims 1 and 9 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,102,915 (Bresler et al.), Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 and submit that claims 1-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Bresler et al. '915 disclose milling tool 2 (Figs. 1-3) including a hollow, substantially hemispherical dome 3, with sharp-edged openings 4 and open base 50 in which are provided elements for removably fixing milling tool support 1 (column 3, lines 31-34). Dome 3 also has additional openings, such as openings 21 and 22, of sufficiently large size to enable the user to check the contact between the bottom of the cotyloid cavity hollowed out by milling tool 2 and the hemispherical external surface of milling tool 2 fitted into the cavity (column 4, lines 12-17).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

. . . each said viewing window extending through said head, each said viewing window including at least one convex circumferential segment as viewed from inside said corresponding viewing window.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Bresler et al. '915 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Bresler et al. '915 disclose a reamer with openings of sufficiently large size to enable the user to check the contact between the bottom of the cotyloid cavity hollowed out by the milling tool and the hemispherical external surface of the milling tool fitted into the cavity. However, Bresler et al. '915 fails to disclose or suggest each viewing window including at least one convex circumferential segment as viewed from inside the corresponding opening; the openings of

Bresler et al. '915 only include straight or concave sections as viewed from inside the corresponding opening. The viewing windows of the present invention, including at least one convex circumferential segment as viewed from inside the corresponding viewing window disclosed by the drawings of the present invention, provide enhanced viewing over the prior art by providing additional viewing angles. The convex circumferential segments of the present invention bulge into the viewing windows (see Figs. 2 and 3 in the application as filed) and in use, as the reamer rotates and cuts, the convex circumferential segments will tend to shed cut biomatter and therefore maintain an open window. This provides an advantage over the prior art including Bresler et al. '915, which only disclose straight or concave sections as viewed from inside the corresponding opening, the straight or concave sections not shedding cut biomatter as efficiently as the present invention. Further, the convex circumferential segments of the present invention allow greater flexibility in the shape of the viewing windows when compared to the openings of the prior art. Yet further, the convex circumferential segments of the present invention allow the viewing windows to be contoured around cutting teeth having concave sections (see again Figs. 2 and 3), thereby maximizing the viewing window aperture area while simultaneously maintaining the strength of the reamer by keeping sufficient material between the viewing windows and the cutting teeth.

Claim 9 has been amended similarly to claim 1. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1 and 9, and claims 2-8 and 10 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

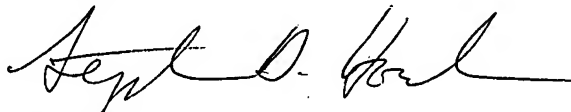
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are

therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen D. Horchem
Registration No. 53,035

SDH/dc

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.
142 S. Main Street
P.O. Box 560
Avilla, IN 46710
Telephone: 260-897-3400
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

Enc.: Return postcard

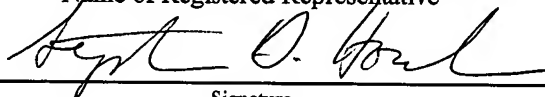
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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May 21, 2003

Date